# Society for the Anthropology of Religion

## Religious Syncretism and Synergies

Biennial Meeting, Pasadena, California  
April 11-14, 2013  
Conference Schedule

## Thursday April 11

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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>San Gabriel Foyer (Pasadena Hilton)</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>4:00–7:30pm</td>
<td>San Gabriel Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00–8:00pm</td>
<td>San Gabriel Foyer</td>
<td>Evening Reception</td>
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## Friday April 12

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30a</td>
<td>San Gabriel Foyer</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>7:30a–5:00p</td>
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| 8:00–9:30    | San Diego Room                  | Esoteric Encounters, Occult Mixtures and Ritual Inventions in African Diasporic Spiritual Tradition  
Organizer: Polk, Patrick A. (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Dorman, Jacob S. (University of Kansas) “Polycultural Rhizomes not Syncretic Roots: Interracial Individuals of African Descent and the 1920s Formation of Black Spiritual Churches as Polycultural Bricolage.”  
Derby, Lauren (University of California, Los Angeles) “Imperial Idols: French and U.S. Revenants in Haitian Vodou.”  
8:00–10:45    | Pacific Ballroom A             | Syncretism as Theory: Deleuzian Assemblages, Affects, Intensities and Virtualities in the Anthropology of Religion (Part 1)  
Organizer: Jon Bialecki (University of California, San Diego)  
Bialecki, Jon (University of California - San Diego) “Anthropological Virtuality’s Virtuality: Why a turn to Deleuze in the Anthropology of Religion?” |
Rudnyckyi, Daromir (University of Victoria) “Assemblages of Expertise: Knowledge and the Impasse of Islamic Finance”

Bielo, James (Miami University) “The Creative Aspect of Creationists”

Clement, Julien (Musée du quai Branly) “Religion and modality of action in Samoa: a perspective from Deleuze and Guattari”

BREAK – 9:30am-9:40am

Haug, Jordan (University of California – San Diego) “Pleasing God and offending kin: Immanent ethics and taboo violations in Misima, Papua New Guinea”

Reinhardt, Bruno (University of California, Berkley) “A Christian ‘plane of Immanence’? flow, intensity, and desire in Pentecostal Christianity”

Discussant: Joel Robbins, University of California San Diego

9:30–10:30 San Diego Room

The Politics of Religious Mixture in the Black Atlantic
Organizer: Todne Thomas Chipumuro (University of Vermont)

Willis, John Thabiti (Carleton College) “New Masks, Wives, and Rituals in a Yoruba Town”

Chipumoro Todne (University of Vermont) “Syncretism and Its Discontents: Black Evangelicals and the Ambivalence of Institutional Change”

9:15–12:00 Pacific Ballroom B

Shamanism, Christianity, and the State
Chair: Hill, Jonathan (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)

Gonzalez, Toni (California State, Los Angeles) “The Religious Connotations of Chultuns”


Bishop, Joyce (California State University, Sacramento) “Asking for the Virgin’s Hand: An Indigenous Interpretation of Christmas”

Abse, Edward (Virginia Commonwealth) “Seeing double in Mazatec shamanic visions: Schismogenetic transformations of syncretism in a Catholicized Mesoamerican religion”

BREAK – 10:40 am-10:50 am

García Molina, Andrés (University of California, Berkeley) “The Yajé Harmonica: A study in syncretism, synergy, and agency”

Hill, Jonathan (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) “Conversion as Rupture, Conversion as Preservation: Exploring the Paucity of Syncretistic Religions in Indigenous Amazonia”

Mustafina, Raushan (N. Gumilyev Eurasian National, Kazakhstan)
“Religious traditions of the Kazakhs”

10:00–12:30 Pacific Ballroom C

Tradition and Faith, Discourse and Change
Chair: Gonsalves, Roselle (University of Calgary)


Landes, David “The Impossibility of Tradition”

Nagle, Jim (Portland State University) “Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Latin Mass and the Narrative of War”

Gonsalves, Roselle (University of Calgary) “The Social Diaspora: Rebuilding Communal Identity for Goan Catholics in the Canadian Diaspora”

10:30–12:30 San Diego Room

Indigenous Christianity and Evangelical Christians
Chair: Marshall, Kimberly (University of Oklahoma)

Marshall, Kimberly (University of Oklahoma) “Soaking Songs and Musical Resonance: Navigating Continuity and Discontinuity with Diné (Navajo) Pentecostals”

Howell, Brian (Wheaton College) “Anthropology and the Making of Billy Graham”

Santos, Jorge (MetroState) “Historical Trauma and the Rejection of Syncretism”

Reynolds, Lydia (Biola University) “The Curse of the Dragon: Theological Shifts in the Cosmology of a Modernizing Sikkimese Hill Tribe and the Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Christianity”

Hammons, Christian (University of Southern California) “Animism and the Art of Not Being Governed in Sumatra”

10:45–12:30 Pacific Ballroom A

Roundtable on Anthropologists in Religious Studies Departments
Organizer: Hoskins, Janet (University of Southern California)

Participants:

Janet Hoskins (University of Southern California), Ellen Badone (McMaster University), Rosalind Hackett (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Katherine Zubko (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Lucia McSpadden (Pacific School of Religion), Joseph Hellweg (Florida State University), Aaron Greer (Pacific University), Juliane Schober (Arizona State University), Catherine Wanner (Penn State University), Mayfair Yang (University of California, Santa Barbara), Hillary Kaell (Concordia University), Joseph Blankholm (Columbia University), Don Seeman (Emory University)

12:30–2:30

LUNCH

2:30–4:30 Pacific Ballroom A

Roundtable on Material Objects and Christian Identities
Organizer: Hillary Kaell (Concordia University)

King, Rebekka (Emory University) “Experiencing the Bible and Exhibiting History: Translation and Tradition as Evangelical Affect and Material Culture

Fisher, Amy E. (University of Toronto) “No-home, No-glass: Crossed-out objects and Christian friendship in an urban shelter”

Kaell, Hillary (Concordia University) “Private Devotion, Public Space: Quebec’s Roadside Crosses and the Modern Self”

Nabhan-Warren, Kristy (University of Iowa) “The Cursillo Weekend: The Experience of Materiality and Spiritual Intimacy in Three Days (and Beyond)”

Zwissler, Laurel (Central Michigan University) “Sex, Love and an Old, Brick Building: A United Church of Canada Congregation Narrates Its Past”

3:00–4:30 San Diego Room Conversion and Return Conversion Chair: Ozgul, Ceren (CUNY Graduate Center)

Ozgul, Ceren (CUNY Graduate Center) “Is Sincerity Secular?: The Politics of Armenian Return Conversions in Turkey

Ozyurek, Esra (University of California, San Diego) “Being German, Becoming Muslim: Religious Conversion, Salafism, and Belonging in Germany

Stephan, Christopher and Teruko Mitsuhara (University of California, Los Angeles) “Krishna works in mysterious ways”: Is it Syncretism? The case of Hare Christna”

3:00–4:00 Pacific Ballroom B Religion, Education, and Ethics Chair: Cappy, Christina (Wisconsin-Madison)

Cappy, Christina (Wisconsin-Madison) “At the Intersection of Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics: The Role of Ubuntu in South African Public Policy”

Brahinsky, Joshua (University of Santa Cruz) “Cultivating Discontinuity: Pentecostal Pedagogies of Yielding and Control”

5:00pm San Gabriel Lecture Hall Presidential Lecture

Janet Hoskins (University of Southern California) “From Implicit to Explicit Syncretism: Vietnamese Caodaism and Debates about Religious Mixing”

Saturday April 13

8:00a San Gabriel Foyer Registration
8:00a– 5:00p San Gabriel Foyer

Book Display

8:30–10:30 Pacific Ballroom B

Religious Creativity, Eclecticism, and the Arts
Chair: Zehner, Edwin (Walailak University)

Zehner, Edwin (Walailak University) “Hybridity” in Thai Society and Religion: Limits of a Concept

Moro, Pamela (Willamette University) “Thai Music, Dance, and Religion in Diaspora: Synergetic Performance and the Production of Heritage at Transnational Buddhist Temples”

Ginossar, Sagi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) “Change is the law of nature”: Innovations in a Western Himalayan cosmology


Weibel, Deana (Grand Valley State University) “Syncretism in the Service of Colonialism: The Universalizing Approach of Religious Creativism”

8:30–10:30 Pacific Ballroom C

Syncretism, Religion, and Community Development
Organizer: Lampe, Frederick P. (Northern Arizona University)

Gajaweera, Nalika (University of California, Irvine) “Buddhist cosmopolitan ethics and Transnational Secular Development in Sri Lanka”

Luthy, Tamara (University of Hawaii at Manoa) “Restoring the Sacred: The Transnational Politics of Environmental Action in Vrindavan, India”

Jain, Pankaj (University of North Texas) “Role of Religion in Sustainable Development of the Indian Pilgrim cities”

Lampe, Frederick P. (Northern Arizona University) “Milk and Malevolence: Kinship Networks, Community, and Development in East Africa”

8:30–12:30 San Diego Room

Towards an Anthropology of Catholicism: Carnality, Ambiguity, and ‘the Homely’
Organizers: Mayblin, Maya (University of Edinburgh), Napolitano, Valentina (University of Toronto), and Norget, Kristin (McGill University)

Muelebach, Andrea (University of Toronto) “The Catholicization of Neoliberalism”

Mayblin, Maya (University of Edinburgh) “Failure and Contagion: the gender of sin in contemporary Catholicism”

Lebner, Ashley (University of Toronto) “Catholicism, syncretism, secularism: the denominational purifications of the Brazilian religious...”
Reesink, Mísia Lins (UFPE - Brazil) “Being Catholic Abroad: Portuguese-speaking Catholic Migrants in the Netherlands.”

Napolitano, Valentina (University of Toronto) “Catholic migrant pedagogies and historical catachresis”

BREAK – 10:30 am-10:45 am

Hoenes, Eric (University of Arkansas) “The Paradox of Charismatic Catholicism: Rupture and Continuity

Campos, Roberta Bivar C. (UFPE – Brazil), and Joaquim Izidro do Nascimento (UFPE-Brazil) “In Juazeiro do Norte (Ceará-Brazil) Our Lady Mother is God: a Marian feminism?”

Christine Thu Nhi Dang (University of Pennsylvania) “Vocal Redemption: Traditional Choral Music in the Contemporary Catholic Church of Senegal”

Norget, Kristin (McGill University) “Brown-skinned Saints, Papal Kisses, & the Enchantment of Universal Truths in Post-secular Mexico”

Political Theologies: Intersections with Secularism, Nationalism, and Other Religions
Organizer: Yang, Mayfair (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Luehrmann, Sonja (Simon Fraser University) “What Came First, Politics or Theology? Carl Schmitt, the Ancient Egyptians, and the Theologization of Seeing in Post-Soviet Russia”

Soboslai, John (University of California, Santa Barbara) “The Burning Buddhas; Political Theology and Self-Immolation in Tibet”


Yang, Mayfair (University of California, Santa Barbara) “Sovereign Power, Celestial Bureaucracy, and the Political Theology of the Masses in China”

BREAK – 10:30 am-10:45 am


Wanner, Catherine (Penn State University) “Syncretic Secularism: Ritual Life in Soviet Borderlands”

Mahadev, Neena (Johns Hopkins University) "Policing Miracles: Christianities and the Constraints of Sri Lankan Nationalism”

Greer, Aaron (Pacific University) “Epic Politics: The Political Theology of the Ramayana in the West Indies”
10:30–12:30 Pacific Ballroom B  Charismatic Leadership and Political Positioning
Chair: Hickman, Jacob (Brigham Young University)

Roy, Arpan (California State University – Los Angeles) “No God But...: Secularizing the Palestine Solidarity Movement”

Spencer, Belinda (Brigham Young University) “An Issue of Legitimacy: Hmong Religious and Ethnonational Borders in Northern Thailand”

Hickman, Jacob (Brigham Young University) “The Art of Being Governed: Managing the Soul of General Vang Pao through the Rituals of Aspirational Statecraft”

Evans, Nicholas (University of Cambridge) “Islamic disputation and the creation of a pious sociality”

10:30–12:30 Pacific Ballroom C  Syncretic Muharram: Shi’i Muslim Minorities and the Performance of Ethnicity and Nationalism; Organizers: Leichtman, Mara (Michigan State University) Rahimi, Babak (University of California, San Diego)

Alrebh, Abdullah (Michigan State University) “Ashura in Qatif, Saudi Arabia: Shi‘i Ritual in a Conservative Sunni State”

Rahimi, Babak (University of California, San Diego) “Burning Muharram: The Case of Iranian-Arab Rituals of Shi‘i Mourning in Bushehr”

Eshaghi, Peyman (Institute for Imamite Studies, Gent, Belgium) “Protocol Instead of Catastrophe: Global Standards, Community Interests and “Structured” Ashura in Contemporary Turkey”

Leichtman, Mara A. (Michigan State University) “The Africanization of Ashura in Senegal”

Discussant: Bridget Blomfield (University of Nebraska-Omaha)

12:30–2:30 LUNCH

2:30–5:00 San Gabriel Lecture Hall  Presidential Panel and Discussion

Joel Robbins (UC San Diego/Helsinki) “For Theory in Syncretism: Structure and Value in the Creation of Religious Mixtures”

Charles Stewart (University College London) “Creolization, Ritual and Syncretism”

Robert Weller (Boston University) “What Counts As the Same? Memory, Mimesis, and Metaphor in Chinese Syncretisms”
5:15  San Gabriel Lecture Hall  Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion  

6:30 - 8:00  San Gabriel Patio  Reception with Cash Bar

Sunday April 14

8:30–10:30  San Diego Room  Contemplative Ethnographies  
Organizers: Seeman, Don (Emory University) and Karlin, Michael (Emory University)

Seeman, Don (Emory University) “Kosher Meditation: Towards a Comparative, Ethnographic Contemplative Studies”

Ramsay, Tamasin (Monash University) “Seeking Authentic Spiritual Practice: Changing Phenomena in the Brahma Kumaris”


Karlin, Michael (Emory University) “Hasidic Psychology: Life Coaching as Contemplative Practice”

8:30–11:00  Pacific Ballroom A  Ethnicity, Religion and Cultural Differences  
Chair: Crosson, J. Brent (University of California- Santa Cruz)

Crosson, J. Brent (University of California- Santa Cruz) “Religious Synergies Without Syncretism: Healing, Harm and Solidarity through Difference in Trinidad”

Evrard, Amy Young (Gettysburg College) “Forming a Christian Identity in Oman”

Theodoropoulos, Anastasia (University of New Mexico) “Wholly Brazilian and Wholly Orthodox: Paradoxes of Simultaneity in Brazilian Orthodox Christianity”

Premawardhana, Devaka (Harvard University) “Symbiosis: Asian Theologian Alyosius Pieris’ Critique of Syncretism and its Relevance for Anthropology”

Swazey, Kelli (University of Hawaii, Manoa) “‘Returning’ culture to the church: Christian responses to the public redefinition of the relationship of religion and culture in representations of regional identity in North Sulawesi, Indonesia”

9:15–11:00  Pacific  Weber’s Theory of Value and the Study of Religious Moralities as
Ballroom B  
**they Engage with a Society of Alternatives**  
Organizer: Dulin, John (University of California, San Diego)

Williams, Leanne (University of California, San Diego) “Doctrinal Dis-ease: Thinking Weber on religion, value and class in urban Zimbabwe”

Dulin, John (University of California, San Diego) “Instrumental Motivation and Value Motivation among Jewish-Christian Hybrid Communities in Northwest Ethiopia”

Parker, Ian (University of California, San Diego) “Conservation and ethics of care in Northwestern New Guinea: towards a plurality of values or competing moral topographies?”

Discussant: Daromir Rudnyckyj (University of Victoria)

10:30–12:00  
Pacific Ballroom C  
**Economy, Development, and Recovery**  
Chair: Scott, Rachelle (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Scott, Rachelle (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) “The Beckoning Spirit of Thailand: Locating Nang Kwak in Thai Religious Spaces”

Dunstan, Adam (University at Buffalo) “Toxic desecration: indigenous knowledge and environmentalism in the battle for a sacred mountain”

Kornfeld, Moshe (University of Michigan) “Interfaith Synergies and Boundary Maintenance in Post-Katrina New Orleans”